

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
PO BOX 356; MONTGOMERY CENTER, VT 05471
802-326-4719 <http://www.montgomeryvt.us>
CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025

The meeting, held via Zoom, was called to order by Patrick Calecas at 5:31 p.m. It should be noted that the MCC usually meets the 1st Wednesday of the month, but there was a need to delay the meeting a week.

Attendance: Marielle Ambroch, Patrick Calecas, Joan Hildreth, Matt Paggi, Kip Potter

Absent: Lynn Locher, Charles Snedikor

Additions/Changes to Agenda: Zoom account availability for MCC meetings

Visitors: None

Approval of Minutes 01/08/25 – Patrick made a motion to approve the minutes; Kip seconded. After a brief discussion, all present voted in favor of approving the 01/08/25 minutes. Motion passed.

Budget/CD Update/Treasurer's Report – Patrick reported the following as of 01/13/25: Current CD balance of \$78,017.94, maturing on 6/16/25; checking account balance of \$11,794.22. Idea of membership drive and considering other fundraising activities was raised. Further discussion tabled until a future meeting.

Events/Projects – Planned:

Webinar on Bird Migration Co-Sponsored by Bakersfield, Enosburg, Montgomery and Richford Conservation Commissions – March 18th, 6:30 p.m. – The presenter, Maeve Kim has been kind enough to offer this free of charge. Information has been shared via the listserv and social media.

Green Up Day – May 3rd - Marielle and Patrick offered to look into more information about this, including any past role(s) of the MCC and coordination with others.

Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District (FCNRCD) Tree Sale Pickup at PSB – May 3rd from 10 – 1 – Patrick and Matt offered to transport trees to Montgomery, as they have done in prior years. Information about the sale has been shared on social media. Joan will touch base with Lauren Weston at FCNRCD to inquire about any other coordination which might be needed.

Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) – Invasives Event on May 9th – Kip is planning to attend. Any other MCC members who are interested would be welcome to attend as well.

Free Trees for Montgomery Residents through UVM Program – May 17th 9 – 11 at PSB – All set for now. Joan will be available to receive the trees at the PSB within a few days of the event.

Discussion/Updates:

Zoom Account – This meeting was held on a private Zoom account with a time restriction. Patrick plans to check with Charlie Hancock about the availability of a Zoom account for Town Boards'/Commissions' meetings.

Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) – Patrick reported that the MCC is now an official member of the AVCC. One membership benefit is eligibility to participate in the Tiny Grants Program, which awards grants of up to \$700.00. The deadline for application submission is 4/18/25. After discussion, it was agreed that applying for funding for a series of community educational events could be very worthwhile. Joan agreed to check with Elliot Cluba about the availability and costs of his various workshops, and report back to the MCC. If the decision were made to pursue funding, Matt offered to help with writing the grant application. The AVCC also has a Needs Assessment Survey, which Patrick offered to complete. There was discussion about topics of interest for that including: clarification of Act 250 as it relates to trail building; information on Natural Resources inventories; information on the Vermont Conservation Design as it relates to individual towns/communities, including Montgomery.

Town Forest (TF) – Bridge Design/Funding – There was discussion about uncertainty re: future funding sources for the construction of the bridge, but it was agreed that it would still be worthwhile to pursue completion of the bridge design. Matt plans to touch base with the engineer about going forward with the process.

Knotweed Project – Grant Application Status – Kip reported that there is some reorganization occurring, but there should be announcements about awards soon.

Town Land – Mowing, etc. – Matt is coordinating with Derek on this, including re: some of the pre-mowing preparatory work.

Hazen's Notch Conservation Trust – Tabled until next meeting.

MCC Membership Changes – Susan Baker has stepped down from the MCC. Her many contributions over the years are very much appreciated, and she will be greatly missed as a member. Everyone wishes her well, and looks forward to seeing her around Town, and hopefully at some MCC events, too. Discussion re: possible new members was tabled until the next meeting. There are currently two vacancies.

This meeting was held on a time-limited Zoom account and abruptly ended at 6:04 p.m. Therefore, there was no formal motion to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth